

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 ACDA-12
/137 W

-----013843 141515Z /53

P 141356Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5144
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LAPAZ
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0960

FOR AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF,WA, UNSC, CZ
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: APPROACH IN PRAGUE

REF USUN NEW YORK 01351
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1. FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS BY LOCAL CONTACT GROUP, IT WAS DECIDED
THAT FRENCH AMBASSADOR D'HARCOURT, AS SENIOR OF THE FIVE
WESTERN AMBASSADORS HERE, SHOULD REQUEST APPOINTMENT WITH MFA
DEPUTY MINISTER PRIOR TO SCHEDULED VISIT BY AMBASSADOR D'HARCOURT TO
SLOVAKIA, AFTERNOON APRIL 12.

2. D'HARCOURT WAS ABLE TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENT WITH DEPUTY MINISTER SPACIL ON MORNING APRIL 12. HE PRESENTED SPACIL WITH TWO COPIES OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TEXT OF PROPOSAL BY THE FIVE IN NEW YORK AND WITH FRENCH-LANGUAGE AIDE MEMOIRE, OF WHICH FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION.

QUOTE: THE GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA, THE UNITED STATES, FRANCE, GREAT BRITAIN, AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY HAVE FOR SOME TIME UNDERTAKEN CONCERTED EFFORTS TO ARRIVE AT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF NAMIBIA.

THEY HAVE REACHED THE STAGE WHEREIN THEY ARE PREPARED TO SUBMIT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL A FORMAL PROPOSITION TO PERMIT NAMIBIA TO ATTAIN INDEPENDENCE IN A PEACEFUL MANNER.

THEY ACCORD THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO THEIR PROPOSITION, WHICH THEY CONSIDER TO BE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA. THEY BELIEVE THAT IT CANNOT BUT HAVE THE MOST FAVORABLE REPERCUSSIONS ON THE PROCESS OF DETENTE.

THEY HOPE THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA, WHICH, IN ITS CAPACITY AS A MEMBER OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, IS INVESTED WITH GREAT RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE MAINTENANCE OF WORLD PEACE, WILL BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE. UNQUOTE.

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COMMENT: CONTACT GROUP HAD AGREED ON USE OF THIS TEXT BEFORE RECEIPT OF REVISED AIDE MEMOIRE SET FORTH MOSCOW 074475.

3. IN PRESENTING PROPOSAL AND AIDE MEMOIRE, AMBASSADOR D'HARCOURT DREW ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM FRENCH MISSION TO U.N. TO EXPLAIN

BACKGROUND OF ACTION OF THE FIVE. SPACIL REPLIED THAT MFA HAD ALREADY RECEIVED PROPOSAL OF THE FIVE NIOM CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION TO U.N. AND HAD THE TEXT PRESENTLY UNDER STUDY. HE ASKED ABOUT AFRICAN REACTIONS TO IT. D' HARCOURT SAID HE THOUGHT AFRICANS WERE IN GENERAL RATHER FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO THIS WESTERN APPROACH.

4. SPACIL THEN MADE THE FOLLOWING THREE POINTS:

A) CZECHOSLOVAKS UNDERSTOOD THAT SWAPO IS NOT SO FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO THE PROPOSAL. HE ADDED THAT FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA SWAPO IS THE "DETERMINING ELEMENT" IN THE MATTER.

B) ON CERTAIN POINTS, THE RMECHOSLOVAKS' POSITION WAS RATHER DIFFERENT FROM VIEWS OF THE FIVE. SPACIL THOUGH A PRINCIPAL PROBLEM

CENTERED ON RESIDUAL FORCE OF 1,500 MEN WHO ARE AIDING POLICE FORCES IN WALVIS BAY. HE THOUGHT THIS GROUP CONSTITUTED A "TOO IMPORTANT" SOUTH AFRICAN FORCE. CZECHOSLOVAKS BELIEVE SOUTH AFRICANS SHOULD COMPLETELY EVACUATE NAMIBIAN TERRITORY WITHOUT DELAY. SPACIL CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WAS "NOT A DEFINITIVE GOC POSITION."

C) ON THE OTHER HAND, SPACIL EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH WESTERN OPPOSITION TO A STRICTLY "INTERNAL SETTLEMENT". IN CONCLUDING, SPACIL SAID CZECHOSLOVAKS REGARDED THE PROPOSAL OF THE FIVE AS A "NEW ELEMENT" ON WHICH IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO REFLECT.

5. IN ADDITION TO THIS DEMARCHE IN PRAGUE, CONTACT GROUP RECOMMENDED THAT FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER MIGHT WISH
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TO CONSIDER DISCUSSING NAMIBIA WITH VISITING FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK DURING APRIL 10-13 STATE VISIT OF PRESIDENT HUSAK. FRG EMBASSY CHARGE, GIESDER, TELLS US HE RECOMMENDED SUCH A DISCUSSION TO BONN, AND ON APRIL 14 HE RECEIVED A TELEGRAM INDICATING THAT GENSCHER HAD, IN FACT, RAISED THE NAMIBIA QUESTION WITH CHNOUPEK. GIESDER ADDED THAT FRG MFA DIRECTOR MEYER-LANDRUT ALSO DISCUSSED NAMIBIA WITH DEP FON MIN JABLONSKY DURING THE HUSAK VISIT. GIESDER THOUGHT THE ONLY NOTEWORTHY POINT IN THESE EXCHANGES WAS FACT THAT JABLONSKY PROBED FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING NATO'S INTEREST IN WALVIS BAY.
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